**Expert Group 2 - Member 3 Chemical Sciences 2**

***What happens when a candle burns?***

When the wick is lit, the wax melts and makes its way up the wick (wicking). The wax (which is a hydrocarbon) combines with oxygen in the process known as combustion (burning), to produce carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, water vapour and heat. It is a chemical reaction from solid to liquid to gas. The gases that are formed escape into the atmosphere.

If you put a beaker over the candle the candle would eventually go out because the burning reaction uses up oxygen, without oxygen the burning process cannot continue.

Cars similarly produce colourless vapour and gases from burning fuel like candles do.

Car engines are powered by petroleum by-products. When a car engine runs, it burns these fuels producing fumes out of the exhaust pipes. These fumes are made up of gases such as carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide and hydrocarbons which pollute the air.

http://uk.ask.com/question/how-do-cars-pollute-the-environment